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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ulf Mattsson et al.                      Art Unit : 2131  
Serial No. : 09/712,926                              Examiner : Jenise E. Jackson  
Filed : November 16, 2000  
Title : METHOD FOR ALTERING ENCRYPTION STATUS IN A RELATINOAL  
DATABASE IN A CONTINUOUS PROCESS

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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REPLY TO ACTION OF JULY 1, 2004

In reply to the Office Action of July 1, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

The examiner rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by *Sutter*, U.S. Patent No. 5,924,094.

Both *Sutter* and the claimed invention disclose a process in which access to data in a database is guaranteed on a continuous basis. *Sutter*, however, provides this continuity in a manner different from the claimed invention. In *Sutter*, all user interaction takes place with a local copy of data, which is periodically synchronized, in the background, with a server. (col. 3, lines 41-52). In contrast, the claimed invention directs actions of commands to a maintenance area, and later redirects action of commands to a base area.

*Sutter* discloses a way to carry out background synchronization by *copying* records from a local storage area to a central database. As best understood, the Examiner considers the local storage area to correspond to the claimed "base area" and the central database to correspond to the claimed "maintenance area."

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

December 1, 2004

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Thomas A. Brown

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However, what *Sutter* discloses is *copying* data. This is different from *directing action* of commands from the base area to the maintenance area. Indeed, *Sutter* specifically teaches away from this step by announcing that “[i]t is a feature of the present invention that users work off-line with local data, and all application transactions are against the local database.”<sup>1</sup> .

Claims 1 and 10 each comprise the step of directing action of commands intended for the base area to the maintenance area. Because *Sutter* explicitly teaches away from this step, *Sutter* does not anticipate the claimed invention.

The remaining claims depend on claims 1 or 10, and contains all of their limitations. Accordingly, these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 10.

Enclosed is a \$430.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/1/04



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<sup>1</sup> *Sutter*, (col. 3, lines 41-44) [emphasis added]